

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES DECEMBER 2003



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

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## Southeast Unemployment Rates Drop Again

The **Kenosha MSA** unemployment rate dropped in November to 4.8 percent. This not seasonally adjusted figure is lower than October's rate by four-tenths of a percent point. This month's rate was also significantly lower than the November 2002 figure by seven-tenths of a point. The annual picture is the better gauge of the labor economy and it shows improvement. Compared to last November the labor force data showed 570 more employed Kenosha residents and 570 fewer unemployed. This is the third straight month to show a decrease in the unemployment rate.

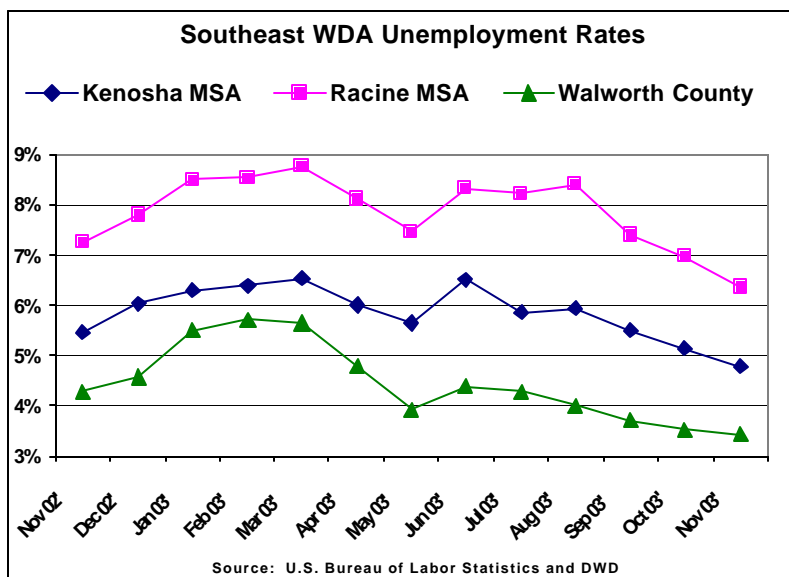
Kenosha MSA industry employment has been a bit weaker relative to its other southeastern counterparts. This is not to say that its in the doldrums, but the current employment levels have been showing fewer jobs, overall, in the county compared to 2002 figures. Kenosha County shows 800 fewer jobs since last November. This is the third month in a row to show an overall, annual industry employment loss and is the sixth month of 2003 to show an annual deficit. Manufacturing employment was the center of Kenosha's annual deficit. The monthly employment change in November 2003 was rather flat, though it did show a loss of 200 jobs overall.

The **Racine MSA** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November was the lowest of 2003, year-to-date. In fact, November's 6.4 percent clip is the lowest unemployment rate for the county since September 2001. November's unemployment rate is lower than the same month in the previous year –the first annual decrease since February. This makes a great deal of sense since the labor force dynamics show 2,650 more employed and 700 fewer unemployed since November 2002. Racine County has improved its number of employed dramatically in 2003, but its unemployed have increased as well keeping the unemploy-

ment rate higher than the average of the last decade.

Racine's overall industry employment was basically unchanged since October. Manufacturing employment saw the largest monthly industry employment increase of 400 jobs. Leisure and hospitality; and education and health services employment both showed dips of 200 jobs each in November. Industry employment from an annual perspective in Racine County is about as relatively bright as one will see in this soft economy. Many industries are showing growth over the year and total industry employment is positive or unchanged for the 14th straight month

(up 200 jobs compared to November 2002). It may not be abundantly growing, but it is positive movement nonetheless. Many have asked "now that the economy is seemingly growing from the rational perspective, when will the local job market improve?" This is not easy to answer. The region is only slightly better off than it was in 2002, but that was a particularly bad year. It will take months of sustained employment improvement to say that recovery is fully in place in Racine.



**Walworth County's** unemployment rate showed the smallest decrease over the month (minus one-tenth of a percentage point) in the southeast region, but it showed one of the largest annual decreases in unemployment, down nine-tenths to 3.4 percent.

Walworth's monthly industry data were seasonal showing 600 fewer jobs that were saddled in a 500 job loss in leisure and hospitality employment. Remaining industry employment was quiet in November. Annually, Walworth shows an overall gain of 200 jobs. The employment gains were centered in services-providing industries as both goods producing sectors, manufacturing and construction, decreased in employment by 300 and 100 jobs respectively. The services-providing employment gains were largest in education and health services and leisure and hospitality.

<b>November 2003</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>Kenosha County/MSA</b>	<b>Racine County/MSA</b>	<b>Walworth County</b>	<b>Southeast WDA</b>	<b>City of Kenosha</b>	<b>City of Racine</b>
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	3,074,604	82,551	94,360	54,217	231,128	48,752	39,258
Persons Employed	2,937,646	78,609	88,364	52,367	219,340	45,966	35,317
Persons Unemployed	136,958	3,942	5,996	1,850	11,788	2,786	3,941
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.8%	6.4%	3.4%	5.1%	5.7%	10.0%
<b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	2,799.8	53.7	80.5	41.1	175.3		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	632.1	12.2	24.2	10.3	46.7		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	2,167.7	41.5	56.3	30.8	128.6		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	123.8	2.3	4.0	1.9	8.2		
All Manufacturing	508.3	9.9	20.2	8.4	38.5		
Total Trade	446.1	9.4	12.6	5.2	27.2		
Wholesale Trade	117.5	1.9	3.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	328.6	7.5	9.6	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	105.2	1.6	1.8	1.2	4.6		
Financial Activities	158.5	1.6	2.6	1.0	5.2		
Education and Health Services	372.5	7.7	10.6	4.1	22.4		
Leisure & Hospitality	232.4	5.7	5.8	7.0	18.5		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	430.1	6.3	12.2	4.5	23.0		
Information	50.1	0.4	0.7	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	243.7	3.2	6.7	xx	xx		
Other Services	136.3	2.7	4.8	xx	xx		
All Government	422.9	9.2	10.7	7.8	27.7		
<b>Change from October 2003</b>							
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	-15,930	-980	-490	-900	-2,370	-590	-360
Persons Employed	-11,880	-620	120	-800	-1,300	-360	50
Persons Unemployed	-4,050	-370	-610	-100	-1,070	-230	-410
Unemployment Rate	-0.1%	-0.4%	-0.6%	-0.1%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.9%
<b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	-4.5	-0.2	0.0	-0.6	-0.8		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	-4.9	-0.1	0.3	-0.1	0.1		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	0.4	-0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.9		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-3.8	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3		
All Manufacturing	-1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4		
Total Trade	4.6	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Wholesale Trade	-1.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	6.2	-0.1	0.1	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Financial Activities	0.8	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1		
Education and Health Services	0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.2		
Leisure & Hospitality	-7.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.5	-0.9		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	-4.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1		
Information	-0.2	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	-2.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Other Services	-1.3	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
All Government	5.6	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3		
<b>Change from November 2002</b>							
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	58,480	-10	1,950	1,180	3,130	-160	420
Persons Employed	71,840	570	2,650	1,600	4,810	330	1,060
Persons Unemployed	-13,360	-570	-700	-410	-1,680	-490	-640
Unemployment Rate	-0.5%	-0.7%	-0.9%	-0.9%	-0.8%	0.0%	-1.8%
<b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>	-5.1	-0.8	0.2	0.2	-0.4		
<b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>	-22.8	-0.8	0.1	-0.3	-1.1		
<b>Service Producing Jobs</b>	17.8	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.7		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-6.3	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2		
All Manufacturing	-16.5	-0.8	0.2	-0.3	-0.9		
Total Trade	9.4	0.4	-0.1	0.1	0.4		
Wholesale Trade	2.8	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	6.6	0.5	-0.1	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.3		
Financial Activities	4.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1		
Education and Health Services	11.1	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.7		
Leisure & Hospitality	1.0	0.0	-0.2	0.2	0.0		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2		
Information	-0.7	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	0.7	0.0	0.1	xx	xx		
Other Services	1.3	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
All Government	-9.5	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.4		

\* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. \*\*Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates. Industry employment figures are in thousands and are rounded. "XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

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